AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

Published by the Information Department of THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL

509 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 7-4766

VOL. I, # 8 December 10, 1948

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION wishes to remind its readers that the new address of its editorial offices is: Information Department, Austrian Consulate General, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. Telephone: MU 7-4766. Comments, suggestions and requests for information sent to Dr. Martin Fuchs at the above address will be given our prompt attention.

RESUMPTION OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS URGED BY AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. In a note submitted simultaneously to the Governments in Washington, London, Paris and Moscow, the Austrian Federal Government requests the early resumption of negotiations for the conclusion of an Austrian State Treaty (Staatsvertrag).

The note handed over to the Department of State by Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, Austrian Minister in Washington, on December 6th, states as follows:

"To the knowledge of the Austrian Federal Government, the negotiations of the Council of the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers for the preparation of an Austrian State Treaty which were held in London last spring were adjourned without setting a date for their resumption. No further progress has been made in this matter since.

"The Austrian Government as well as the Austrian people are most anxious for the speedy conclusion of the State Treaty, which would bring about the withdrawal of the occupation and eliminate Austria's division into four zones which are felt as a heavy burden and a severe impediment to Austria's economic recovery.

"The Austrian Federal Government therefore requests the Government of the United States of America to resume negotiations on the Austrian State Treaty jointly with the other Governments represented in the Council of the Deputies in order to find a suitable basis for the continuation and early conclusion of such negotiations."

COMMUNIST DEPUTY INTERPRETS SOVIET POLICY REGARDING YUGOSLAV TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. During a debate on the State Treaty, in the Finance Committee of the Austrian Parliament Communist representative Fischer stated that Russia had never identified itself with Yugoslav claims to Austrian territory. According to Mr. Fischer Russia had only requested that these claims be taken into consideration. Foreign Minister Gruber replied by recalling the negotiations that had taken place at the London Conference when Soviet delegate Koktomow was explicitly asked whether a change of Austria's borders were a preliminary condition to the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty and had replied by an emphatic "yes". Dr. Gruber was quick to add that should this not be the case, as representative Fischer had implied, the Austrian Government would take the initiative in calling for an immediate resumption of negotiations toward conclusion of the State Treaty.

DR. RENNER APPEALS TO WORLD FOR RESTORATION OF AUSTRIA'S FREEDOM. On November 12, 1948, Federal President Dr. Karl Renner went on the air on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the First Austrian Republic in a speech to the Austrian people. He appealed to the conscience of the world to finally lend an ear to Austria's demand for freedom. Dr. Renner who that day had been made an Honorary Citizen of the City of Vienna, declared among other things: "The Austrian Republic, in the short period of less than four years, has energetically pulled itself up by its bootstraps. We are proud of the fact that we have restored democracy in our country in an incontestably pure form, that without hesitation and without the many crises which our neighbors around us have experienced, we have given it practical meaning and that at the same time we have resolutely pursued our way towards the United Nations". Austria's President added that the great powers had sat in judgement on Austria long

enough and that Austria now had the strength to govern itself.

SOCIALIST PARTY CONVENTION AGAINST DICTATORSHIP. In its annual convention which closed on November 12, the Austrian Socialist Party unanimously approved a political resolution calling for the defense of democracy against any and all attempts by dictatorial movements to regain power or to reorganize for political action. The party also turned down all collaboration with groups favoring the subjugation of Austria's interests to foreign dictatorships. In the same resolution the party also took official cognizance of the fact that the Austrian Parliament and Government were still being hindered in the exercise of their constitutional rights by interference from foreign Military Governments, and voiced its determination to continue the struggle for Austria's independence with all means at its disposal. It decried the fact that the constitutional freedom of Austrian citizens was still being disregarded by the continuance of such methods as the censorship of outgoing foreign mail and the restrictions on travel into and out of the country.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Adolf Schaerf was reelected Party Chairman and Minister of the Interior Helmer, City Councellor Novy and Representative Proft as Deputy Chairmen.

The party's Executive Secretary, Representative Probst told the convention that the Socialist Party in Austria now counted 631,920 members, one third of which were women. More than 67% of the members were industrial or white collar workers. He further reported that the new state organizations comprised 117 district and 3023 local groups.

AUSTRIA PROPOSES OTTILINGER CASE BE SUBMITTED TO NEUTRAL FORUM. At the last session of the Allied Council in which the case of Dr. Margarete Ottilinger was discussed, it had been intimated that Austrian officials were being used for activities directed against certain occupation powers. With respect to this accusation the Austrian Federal Government issued an official statement to the effect that Dr. Ottilinger had faithfully represented Austria 's interests within the range of her official duties and that such activity could in no way be construed as espionage or as work directed against an occupation power. The Federal Government proposes that the case be submitted to a neutral forum which would have access to all documentary evidence.

It will be recalled that Dr. Ottilinger, a Department Head of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Austria's leading specialist concerned with implementation of the Marshall Plan, had been arrested by Russian soldiers on Nov. 5th while en route from Linz to Vienna.

AUSTRIAN OIL SPECIALISTS DISAPPEAR IN SOVIET ZONE. The Federal Ministry of the Interior announced that three Austrian employees of the Soviet oil refinery in the Lobau had disappeared. The Ministry asked the Soviet authorities whether they had any knowledge of the whereabouts of these individuals who have not been heard from since Nov. 8th. Several days later the "Arbeiter Zeitung" reported that the missing three were oil specialists engaged in laboratory work together on a new invention said to be of special importance to the oil industry.

Two days before, the same paper had published a report according to which the Vienna representative of the Swiss film company "Gamma", Dr. Witschel, had been arrested by two Russian officers at his residence. After his papers had been thoroughly checked and taken from him, he was asked to accompany the Russians. Nothing has been heard from him since his arrest. Some time before, Dr. Witschel, in a phone call to Switzerland, discussed a film agreement between his Swiss firm and an American film production company, and in so doing mentioned "the American agreement". The paper assumes that this unveiled reference to "the American agreement" may have been the cause of his arrest.

SOCIALISTS COMPLAIN AGAINST AMERICAN TRAFFIC INTERFERENCE IN VIENNA. Although the City Commanders of the four occupation powers transferred authority on traffic regulations to the Police Commissioner of Vienna in May 1946, American occupation authorities continue to check Austrian civilian vehicles in their zone of the city, Socialist deputies in Parliament alleged recently. Pressure is being brought to bear on the Ministry of the Interior to put an end to this impossible situation which subjects the American zone of Vienna to two different traffic authorities at the same time.

AUSTRIAN MINISTERS STOPPED BY OCCUPATION HIGHWAY PATROLS. The country's zonal barriers are also the source of continuing travel difficulties. Austrian Ministers are still being stopped on their trips and requested to state their destination. Three recent cases illustrate this situation. Foreign Minister Gruber's car was halted by an American highway patrol at Salzburg and he was asked to produce his documents. Minister Gruber stated that he would protest such treatment since the Americans had long since turned over control of the roads in their zone to the Austrian police. The second case involved Minister of Economic Planning Krauland who was stopped by the Russians at Enns, and the third concerned Minister of Education Dr. Hurdes during his recent trip to the Tyrol when he was stopped by the French.

Dr. Hurdes declared on this occasion that these zonal barriers were the most senseless thing one could think of and appealed to world reason to put an end to such conditions.

DISSOLUTION OF PEOPLE'S COURTS PLANNED. The Austrian Ministry of Justice is preparing the draft of a Parliamentary bill calling for the dissolution of the People's Courts. Representatives of both Government parties in Parliament expressed their party's desire to see this extraordinary legal procedure terminated and the system of trial by jury reinstated. Minister of Justice Geroe pointed out that this would involve a constitutional law requiring the approval of the four occupation powers, adding that discussions had already been held and that he hoped they would lead to conclusive results in the near future.

A total of 119,088 cases have been handled by the People's Courts: 20,193 accusations were filed, and 15,328 judgements rendered 9,806 of which were sentences of guilt; 43 death sentences were pronounced and a further 9,763 individuals were sentenced to prison terms. There were 5,523 acquittals.

FORMER NAZI OFFICIAL SENTENCED. Alfred Proksch, a former official of the Nazi Party in Austria and one-time Superintendent of the Federal Railroads, was sentenced to four years of prison by a People's Court in Vienna. Proksch had been one of the most prominent Nazi leaders in Austria. As far back as 1919 he joined the National Socialist Party in Germany and was then transferred to the Austrian Nazi Party in 1926. On June 20, 1933, Proksch had several conversations with Hitler in Munich. He was expelled from Austria and remained in Germany until the occupation of Austria. At that time Proksch was rewarded for his "faithful service" to the Nazis by being appointed Reich Trustee for Labor in Austria.

PERIOD FOR FILING RESTITUTION CLAIMS EXTENDED. Dr. Peter Krauland, Minister of Economic Planning and Property Protection, reported in a Cabinet Meeting that the period of time granted for filing restitution claims under the third Restitution Law has been officially extended to June 30th, 1949, and the time for filing claims under the fourth Restitution Law to December 31, 1949.

CARDINAL INNITZER BACK IN VIENNA AFTER AUDIENCE WITH POPE. Cardinal Dr. Innitzer has returned to Vienna from Rome where he was received in audience by the Pope at Castel Gandolfo to report on the Archdiocese of Vienna and the Burgenland. Pope Pius showed especial interest in an album illustrating the destruction and reconstruction of the St. Stephan Cathedral. He expressed his pleasure at the energy and strength with which the people of Vienna were rebuilding this landmark of their city.

Msgr. Giovanni Dellepiane, the titular archbishop of Stauropoli, who has been appointed the new Internuncio for Austria, will take over his position in Vienna in the near future.

AUSTRIAN TRADE UNIONISTS AT AFofL CONVENTION. Invited by the American Federation of Labor to attend its 67th Annual Convention in Cincinnati, Mr. Franz Ohla, member of the Executive Board of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, Executive Secretary of the Austrian Construction and Woodworkers Union and member of the Austrian Parliament, conveyed the heartfelt greetings of one and a half million manual and white collar workers of the Austrian trade union movement. Referring to the ERP program, Mr. Ohla emphasized that the overwhelming majority of Austrian trade unionists -- and of the Austrian people as a whole -- welcome and approve the Marshall Plan. "We shall supplement the help received under that plan by our

own efforts, in order that Austria may become self-sufficient when that help reaches its end. We are sincerely prepared to establish economic cooperation with all nations for the purpose of European reconstruction. We can definitely state that the help given under the ERP program leaves us in possession of our full political and economic freedom. More than that, it is this help which really ensures and protects our freedom". Mr. Ohla added: "We are grateful to all nations which contributed to our liberation, but some should not make it too difficult for us to be grateful. We want to decide ourselves -- and without interference from anybody -- our fate and that of our country. We shall not allow anyone to make our decisions for us. We want our dignity to be respected at last. Those who hope that they can induce us to change our attitude, should better take notice of our determination. The entire world should know that as long as we will be able to move, to speak and to make our decisions ourselves, there will be no change in our attitude. Intimidation or threats, or attacks against the personal freedom of individuals as have occurred in our country will not succeed in altering our position."

Introducing the Austrian trade union delegate to the convention, AFofL President William Green remarked that Mr. Ohla spent eight years in prison and concentration camps for his anti-Fascist and anti-Nazi activities.

FAO INVITED TO AUSTRIA. The Austrian Government has extended an invitation to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations to consider the city of Innsbruck, capital of the Austrian Tyrol, as a possible seat should the organization actually decide to move and establish its headquarters in Europe. The question of a permanent site for FAO headquarters will be decided at a special session to be held before the FAO's next general conference.

AUSTRIAN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. Addressing the delegates attending the 4th FAO Conference in Washington, Mr. Otto Sagmeister, Federal Minister of Food, summarized Austria's recent development in the fields of nutrition and agriculture. In July 1948, the daily caloric basis for the normal consumer was raised to 1800, and in September 1948, to the present level of 2100 calories. This improvement was made possible only through substantial American aid and through a stringent utlization of home production and an equal distribution of available food supplies. But even with a nutritional basis of 2100 calories, some time will still be needed before public health conditions, especially among Austria's youth, approach normal levels. At present, the daily 2100 caloric ration of the normal consumer includes approximately 345 grams of carbohydrates, 49 grams of fats and 55 grams of protein (of which only 10 grams are of animal origin). The main objective for the future is therefore to arrive at a better nutritional balance, which implies a reduction of bread in favor of increased meat and fat calories.

Agricultural production, Mr. Sagmeister stated, has suffered considerably from the war and from post-war difficulties. Nevertheless progress has been made in overcoming these difficulties, despite the shortage of labor. Austria has fortunately been favored with a better harvest in 1948 than in the preceding year. This is particularly the case for cereals, fodder crops, corn and in certain areas also potatoes. The domestic production of potatoes, vegetables and fruits, especially apples, has already made free market deliveries possible to a large extent, thus permitting a partial abolition of rationing.

Adequate and timely supplies of phosphate and potash fertilizers are an essential prerequisite for a rapid and substantial increase of agricultural production. In addition, an extensive production of manure is needed. This will only become possible if the amount of livestock is increased, thereby also gradually eliminating the present deficiency of animal protein in the Austrian food ration. A certain improvement in this sector of agricultural production may also be expected as a result of the better 1948 harvest of fodder crops and the imports of feed scheduled for next year under the ERP program, even though these imports involve only modest quantities for the present time.

AUSTRIA RECEIVING MARSHALL PLAN AID VALUED AT 280 MILLION DOLLARS. At a recent meeting of the Industrial Association, Minister of Finance Dr. Zimmermann stressed once more that the goods Austria was receiving under the Marshall Plan were being given the country free of charge and that such goods for the fiscal year 1948/1949 had a

value of no less than 280 million dollars. Of these, 125 million dollars were for food supplies, 14 million for agriculture, 43 million for coal, 68 million for industrial raw materials, 13 million for investments, and 19 million for miscellaneous aid supplies.

ESTIMATED MARSHALL PLAN IMPORTS FOR 1949/1950. The independent Vienna daily "Die Presse" publishes a report from the trade paper "Industrie" according to which the Inter-Ministerial Planning Commission has limited its requested program of U.S. aidfor the fiscal year 1949/50 to 288,400,000 dollars worth of supplies. This is 8,400,000 dollars more than the value of the goods being received during the current year. "Die Presse" then goes on to report from its own sources that the breakdown of the import requirements for investment purposes during the coming period will presumably be something like this: $18,650,000 for iron and steel; $11,180,000 for power production materials; $5,300,000 for textile machinery; $4,940,000 for tool machinery; $820,000 for mining equipment; $700,000 for lumber production machinery; $840,000 for agricultural machinery; and some $18,260,000 for other miscellaneous machinery.

ECA FUNDS FOR AUSTRIAN STEEL MILL. On November 30, the ECA approved the use of 4.3 million dollars from ECA funds for the construction of a modern blooming mill for making steel ingots for the Alpine Montangesellschaft, Austria's largest steel company. The mill will be located in Donawitz in the Austrian Alps. The existing steam driven blooming mill was installed in 1897 and was designed to handle ingots weighing 1 1/2 metric tons. Present requirements make it necessary to handle ingots weighing more than 4 metric tons, and this causes frequently breakages. In August 1948, for instance, a breakage caused a three weeks' shutdown of the blooming mill operations. The mill has to run continuously in three shifts in order to satisfy only partly the milling requirements of the processing mill installations at Donawitz. The new mill will be electrically driven and is designed to produce 40,000 metric tons of blooms and slabs a month in two shifts allowing sufficient leeway for occasional periods of extraordinary demand and time for overhauling and repairing. At present 30,000 metric tons a month is the maximum if no breakdowns occur. The new mill will also make possible more efficient use of manpower of which there is at present a shortage in this industry.

AUSTRIAN TOBACCO MEN IN THE U.S. Representatives of the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly have recently made two visits to the United States to personally contact American tobacco packers and suppliers in order to obtain the most suitable grades of tobacco for the Austrian tobacco monopoly and to arrange for more favorable prices by direct negotiations. These representatives have encountered a maximum of cooperation on the part of both official circles as well as American tobacco wholesalers who have shown an understanding for Austria's difficult financial situation. Some firms have even been willing to send advance shipments of tobacco to Austria on a credit basis.

In 1947, Austria's limited tobacco production totalled about three and a half million kilograms, which amounts to a per capita production of only 500 grams per year. During 1948, production was almost doubled and the per capita yield reached 1000 grams. Plans have been made for a further increase to about 7,450,000 kilos (7,200 tons of imported tobacco and 250 tons of home-grown tobacco) during the first year of the Marshall Plan (1948/49). This increase will correspond to a per capita ration of almost 1060 grams. (Germany's Bizonia intends to reach a yearly tobacco consumption of 1,300 per capita by 1949 already). There is a shortage of funds for tobacco imports especially in view of the considerable price increases of American bright Virginia tobacco.

Before the war, Austria's tobacco monopoly produced an average of 9,15 million kilograms of tobacco products of all types; in 1929, production had even reached 12,7 million kgs. Imports of leaf-tobacco reached an average of 10,8 million kgs during the period 1928-1937, this amount being equivalent to approximately 1350 grams per person.

At the present time, the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly has six tobacco plants in operation: Fuerstenfeld (Styria), Hainburg-on-the-Danube (Lower Austria), Linz (Upper Austria), Schwaz (Tyrol), Stein-on-the-Danube (Lower Austria) and Wien-Ottakring.

HYDRAULIC POWER INCREASED IN AUSTRIA. Important advances have been made in Austria's hydraulic power production. The Tyrol is the

leading state in the production of electric energy with an output of 700 million kilowatt-hours. Vorarlberg follows with 650 million, and Upper Austria is not far behind with 640 million. The latter state will however soon be able to increase its electric power production thanks to the four new power stations at Enns now in process of construction.

During this year, construction was begun on a total of 48 large and 87 medium and small power plants throughout the country. The construction of power stations and hydraulic plants is being delayed by a shortage of iron. Although 20,000 tons had been promised for this year, only 13,500 were made available, but this notwithstanding, the Ministry of Energy has mapped out even more ambitious construction plans for the coming year. Some 14,000 workers have been engaged in this construction work during the past year. An important factor in the great strides made in the construction of power plants was the allocation of three times as much money this year as last.

DUTY-FREE CUSTOMS ZONE IN INNSBRUCK AUTHORIZED. In a decision of September 10, 1948, the Federal Ministry of Finance has authorized the creation of a duty-free customs zone within the jurisdiction of the City of Innsbruck as a customs-exempt area. France, Italy, The Netherlands and Belgium had already shown an interest in this plan for such a duty-free zone at Innsbruck. A warehouse and cold-storage building are scheduled to be built in the duty-free customs zone and it is hoped that both buildings will be at least partly completed by the fall of 1949.

RECORD INDUSTRY REACHES PREWAR PRODUCTION LEVEL. Austria's record industry has now again reached a yearly production of almost one and one half million records and the supply of raw materials is satisfactory. The mass from which the records are pressed is made from domestic materials, except for the shellac which must be imported. Since the total production is in excess of domestic needs, plans are afoot to export Austrian records to North and South America.

AUSTRIA'S LIVESTOCK DECLINING. According to official figures just released Austria's livestock has been declining since the end of the war. Beef cattle has fallen from 2,578,804 heads in 1938 to 2,154,578 heads in 1948, hogs from 2,868,000 heads in 1938 to 1,408,000 in 1948. This decline is attributed to the shortage of concentrated fodder which already before the war had to be imported. The breeding of livestock in Austria will be carried out primarily by adding new blood strains to old stocks by means of new cattle to be imported. Such an exchange of livestock has already been incorporated into several trade agreements.

AUSTRIAN COAL PRODUCTION ABOVE PREWAR LEVEL. The "Wiener Zeitung" reports that during the first ten months of 1948 coal production in Austria has risen to 2,882,333 tons. This represents a 3,19% increase over the first ten months of the prewar year 1937. Since 1946, coal production increased by almost 40%. The latest figure, that for October 1948, shows a current production of approximately 300,000 tons per month.

AUSTRIAN EXPORTS OF NITROGEN FERTILIZER TO EGYPT. An agreement has been concluded between the Austrian Nitrogen Works in Linz and Egypt for the supply of 60,000 tons of nitrate of lime and ammonia (nitrogenous fertilizers) against payment in Egyptian Pounds. Deliveries will start immediately and will be shipped via Trieste. It is expected that a considerable part of the foreign exchange thus obtained will be used to purchase Egyptian cotton for the Austrian textile industry. This is one of Austria's first export transactions not based on compensation.

RECORD PIG IRON AND ELECTRO-STEEL PRODUCTION IN SEPTEMBER. Austria's pig iron and electro-steel production reached new records during September with an output of 57,061 tons of pig iron and 10,498 tons of electric steel. New precision rollers have been installed in the "Vereinigten Eisen- und Stahlwerken" in Linz which have a monthly capacity of 400 tons of high-quality sheet metal.

LINZ GLASS FACTORY TO BEGIN PRODUCTION. The Linz Glass Factory which will produce large amounts of crude glass for the manufacture of eyeglasses, plans to start operation of its first glass furnace with a daily capacity of over 1000 kilos this month. A second furnace

is scheduled for installation in March and a third toward the end of 1949. The Linz Glass Factory, when completed, will have a daily production of over 3000 kilos crude glass and will be the largest such undertaking in Austria. Eighty to ninety percent of its output will be earmarked for export.

AUGARTEN PORCELAIN IN GREAT DEMAND. The demand for Augarten porcelain has increased to such an extent both abroad and in Austria that the present output is no longer sufficient to meet it. Existing installations will therefore be expanded in 1949. Exports of Augarten porcelain have now reached a satisfactory level and the proceeds from them are used to buy the raw materials needed for its manufacture: quartz and feldspar are imported from Scandinavia and kaolin from Czechoslovakia.

PROGRESS IN THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY. During the past months tremendous progress has been made in Austria's electrical industry which can now cover many of the country's needs. Thus, the production of electric bulbs is back to the level of 1937 with a monthly output of two million bulbs. And since Austria's yearly requirements rarely exceed 10 million bulbs, a sizeable part of domestic production is being earmarked for export. Other electrical products such as insulated cables and materials, plugs, sockets, switches, safety fuses, etc. are now also being produced in sufficient quantities to meet domestic needs.

AUSTRIA NEEDS MORE RAW COTTON. Austrian industry is now using up raw cotton at such a rate that increased imports of this basic raw material are necessary. It is estimated that for the operating year which began on July 1, 1948, the textile industry will need 115,000 to 125,000 bales of raw cotton. This is almost double the 63,000 bales used during the operating year which ended on August 1st. During this latter period, 65% of the cotton imported was received from foreign firms on the basis of exchange contracts for finished cloth. Austrian textile mills kept part of the cotton as compensation for the work of processing it into cloth. It is expected that two-thirds of this year's needs of raw cotton will be paid for from Marshall Plan funds.

GUIDEBOOK OF AUSTRIAN INDUSTRY. A "Guidebook of Austrian Industry, Commerce and Trade", prepared under the auspices and with the cooperation of the Federal Chamber of Commerce in Vienna, is scheduled for publication in February 1949. The publication is intended as a reference book for manufacturers, businessmen and economists who are interested in trade with Austria. For further information write to "Austrian Guidebook", 165 West 46th Street, Suite 1109, New York 19, N.Y.

TRADING RESUMED ON VIENNA'S STOCK EXCHANGE. On November 15, after an interruption of more than three and a half years, trading was officially resumed on the Vienna Stock Exchange. Minister of Finance Dr. Zimmermann, in his inaugural speech, described the opening of the Exchange as a further step in the consolidation of Austria's economy. The first day of trading, handled by about eight brokers, began with a sound quotation tendency and showed orderly free trading of about 23 shares and some 5 investment stocks. The official quotation sheet of the Exchange also began publication with issue No. 1 and carried a total of 176 quotations. Trading and quotation of foreign securities remains suspended until further notice.

INTERNATIONAL INNSBRUCK FAIR TO REOPEN, VIENNA FAIR ENLARGED. Construction has begun on two new halls for the 1949 Vienna Spring Fair and an enlargement of the fair grounds is also planned. In Innsbruck, after a ten-year interruption, the "Innsbrucker Messegesellschaft m.b.H." will again promote and organize an International Fair in 1949. Preparations for this Fair are being followed with great interest in economic circles in Italy, Germany, Switzerland and France. Requests for exhibition space have already been received from Italy, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. In 1938, prior to Austria's occupation, some 500 to 600 firms participated in the Innsbruck Fair.

COMMERCIAL AIRLINES EXTEND SERVICE TO AUSTRIA. The Royal Dutch Airlines KLM inaugurated a new air service from Amsterdam to Vienna on November 26, with 21-passenger Douglas DC-III planes. The first flight -- with stops at Stuttgart and Munich -- lasted six hours forty-five minutes.

The Vienna office of the Pan-American World Airways announced a

new weekly flight from Vienna to Zurich with Viking planes of the British European Airways. Travellers to South America can make convenient connections for the Zurich-Lisbon-Rio de Janeiro flights.

The London Travel Bureau is panning a direct London-Innsbruck flight for British tourists who wish to spend their winter vacations in Austrian mountain resorts. The flight will take three hours and will not be much more expensive than a second-class railroad ticket.

INTERNATIONAL TRAIN SERVICE IMPROVED. The International Railroad Timetable Conference which was recently held in Cracow led to many improvements in international train service. Starting May 15th, the Arlberg Express Paris-Vienna run will be shortened by six hours, and a new train will be added on the Vienna-Basel stretch to improve Vienna-London service. Other additions include an express train from Munich to Rome and extended service between Vienna and Genoa, Vienna and Trieste, as well as between Munich and these points. The Vienna-Rome express is to be speeded up by six hours. Additional sleeping and dining cars are also planned.

DIRECT INNSBRUCK-LIENZ LINE ACROSS BRENNER. For the first time since 1918, a direct rail connection between Innsbruck and Lienz through the Brenner has been put into operation on November 15. On the occasion of the inauguration of this service, Minister of Transportation Ubeleis expressed his pleasure at this new link between the eastern and northern parts of the Tyrol. Representatives of the Italian Government greeted the first-run passengers at the Brenner.

BREGENZ-ST. MARGARETHEN LINE ELECTRIFIED. Starting in mid-December, the Bregenz-St. Margarethen railroad line will be electrified. The run had been made heretofore by steam-driven trains.

CONSTRUCTION ON AUSTRIAN HIGHWAYS RESUMED. The Austrian Government has begun highway construction work to complete the network of the former "Reichsautobahn". In this connection, the Ministry of Commerce reports that 2 million schillings will be necessary to complete the stretches of road planned for this year. Part of the funds for further highway construction, which would extend the network of international highways, will depend on contributions by those European countries which are interested in an extension of Europe's international transit highways.

INCREASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN VIENNA. Today there are 18,689 trucks and buses in service in Vienna as compared to only 8,703 in 1937. The number of private cars in circulation is 10,834 which is still below the 1937 figure of 13,853. Motorcycles have increased from 9,219 in March of this year to 14,619 in October.

Right after the liberation, Vienna was virtually without any means of automotive transportation. The retreating Germans and the liberating Red Army had requisitioned almost all cars, trucks and motorcycles. But the situation has improved tremendously in the past three years. Many of the requisitioned cars and trucks have been returned to their owners by the occupation forces and since 1946 Austria has again been producing trucks and motorcycles of its own. Since the production of private vehicles has not yet been resumed, these must still be imported from the United States, Italy, France, England, Czechoslovakia and Germany. These imports have of necessity been limited because of the shortage of foreign currency and cars are available only to persons with the highest priority, such as doctors.

AUSTRIA TURNS DOWN INTERNATIONAL WAVELENGTH ALLOCATION AGREEMENT. Together with Egypt, Luxembourg, Sweden, Syria and Turkey, Austria has declined to sign the agreement proposed at the international wavelength allocation conference in Copenhagen because it would have limited Austria to two exclusive wavelengths, two split wavelengths and internation common wavelengths which are used by about 25 to 30 countries. All these wavelengths were to be low frequency waves which would have been most unsuitable for broadcasting in Austria's alpine valleys. Unless at least 10 countries request a revision of the agreement by March 15, 1950, it will go into effect at that time.

AUSTRIAN LEAGUE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS. The numerous activities of the Austrian League for the United Nations, the "Liga der Vereinten Nationen", with its 45,000 dues-paying members including President Renner, members of the Austrian Government and countless workers and farmers, point to the Austrian people's keen interest in the world

organization. This interest is by no means limited to October 24th - official United Nations Day. The League is carrying out an ambitious educational program by means of leaflets, newspaper articles, radio speeches, regular social gatherings and meetings addressed by prominent speakers, two annual essay contests for students and the organization of UN window displays throughout Austria. On United Nations Day, the League's enthusiastic members honor with a prize the man or woman who has distinguished him or herself most in advancing the UN idea.

The League's General Secretary, Mr. A. Stuchly-Luchs, takes pride in the fact that his organization's activities are financed by private contributions. Austria's interest in the world organization is particularly well illustrated by a new law recently proposed by the country's Minister of Education. According to this law all Austrian schools would be required to devote one hour every week to a study of the United Nations with teachers emphasizing the principles, purposes, programs and problems of the world organization.

NEW AUSTRIAN CHILD LABOR LAW IN FORCE. A new Austrian child labor law has recently gone into effect which affects the employment practices pertaining to children up to the age of 14 and of apprentices, workers and clerks up to the age of 18. The principal provisions of the law limit the working week of such youths to a maximum of 44 hours (under the old law it had been 48) and prohibits night work between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. as well as all work on Sundays and holidays.

VIENNA CARES FOR ITS CHILDREN. In 1948 the City of Vienna provided support for more than twenty-five thousand children, many of whom are so-called "army children". Five hundred and eighty of them were fathered by Russian soldiers and 883 by soldiers of the other occupation armies. The Municipality now maintains 276 kindergartens which are attended by 11,000 children.

VIENNESE SCHOOL CHILDREN TO BE INSURED AGAINST POLIO. The "Wiener Kurier" reports that Vienna's municipal Board of Education has reached an agreement with the Insurance Company of the City of Vienna as a result of which about 150,000 school children between the ages of 6 and 8 are to be insured against infantile paralysis. Over 120,000 pupils have already been so insured under this plan. Last year's catastrophic epidemic of poliomyelitis, which resulted in 302 deaths, is said to have induced the school authorities to put this program into effect.

TOY MUSEUM TO BE OPENED IN VIENNA. Under the sponsorship of the Austrian Federation of Toy Manufacturers, a toy museum will soon be opened in Vienna depicting both the historical development as well as modern creations of children's toys. Austria is both a producer and exporter in this field.

SCHOOL BOOKS FOR VIENNA. Since the end of the war, the Municipal Administration of the City of Vienna has bought 667,800 school books costing almost 4 million schillings. Over half a million copies of 52 different class reading subjects were also acquired, although atlases could not yet be bought.

AUSTRIAN BOOK EXPORTS REACH 7 MILLION SCHILLING LEVEL. Austrian book exports have increased considerably since the end of the war. A report submitted on the occasion of Austrian Book Week - from November 13th to the 21st - shows the development of the book export business: in 1945 books for a value of only 27,000 schillings were sent abroad; in 1946, the figure jumped to 2 million schillings and in 1948, 7.05 million schillings worth of books left the country. Sixty percent of these were scientific works, 20% fashion publications, 10% books on music and 10% fiction. Of the 28 countries to which Austrian books are exported, Switzerland is the largest and Germany the second largest buyer.

Although a trade agreement has been reached with the Anglo-American zones for the planned export of Austrian books for a value of $125,000, restrictive regulations still make the realization of these plans difficult. The same agreement calls for the import of German books,primarily of a scientific nature, for a value of $25,000. Book orders totalling about $125,000 have also been placed in the Eastern zone of Germany.

FAMOUS MUSIC PUBLISHER DIES. Jella Hertzka, long the moving spirit of Vienna's famed music publishing house "Universal Edition", died in

Vienna last month at the age of 76. After the death of her husband Julius Hertzka in 1931, Madame Hertzka took over the direction of the "Universal Edition" and was especially prominent in her support of such modern composers as Schoenberg, Wellesz, and Einem whose works her firm published. In 1938 she left Austria for England, returning to Vienna in 1946 to resume her music publishing work. Her death leaves a gap in Vienna's musical life which will be hard to fill.

FOR THE PROMOTION OF MODERN ART. A "Society for the Promotion of Modern Art" will shortly be founded in Vienna with the program of supporting and furthering modern trends in the plastic arts and in music. The association is directed against artistic conservatism which opposes all new tendencies in the arts. Members of its presiding committee include the President of the "Konzerthausgesellschaft" Mautner-Markhof; Hofrat Prof. Dr. Styx, Director of the Austrian History of Art Museum and Prof. Dr. Benesch, Director of the renowned "Albertina".

NEW BRUCKNER SCORE DISCOVERED. An unknown score by Anton Bruckner was recently discovered by the Viennese composer Dr. Heinrich Tschuppik among various papers and documents he inherited from an aunt who had received them from one of Bruckner's most talented pupils. There is no doubt in Austrian musical circles that the work is genuine. The composition's 49 pages, which are described as a "festive prelude", are scored for strings, two woodwinds, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, bass tuba and kettledrums. Several of the pages are annotated in Bruckner's own handwriting. From the stylistic point of view, the work occupies a place between the composer's third and fourth symphonies and is typically Brucknerian in character.

POSTHUMOUS LEHAR COMPOSITIONS. Shortly before his death, Franz Lehar entrusted his unfinished or as yet unperformed musical compositions to the Swiss composer Paul Burckhardt who is one of Switzerland's most successful young composers and a conductor of the Swiss radio network. The Zurich correspondent of the Austrian Press Agency reports that this musical legacy, which Lehar asked Burckhardt to accept in one of the composer's last letters, includes at least 200 important musical compositions which Lehar's untimely death did not enable him to fully complete and many of which are still in draft form. Burckhardt has deposited these in a bank vault.

"Die Presse" reports that a new Lehar waltz entitled "Danube Legends" was recently dedicated to the Vienna Schubert Association and will soon be given its first public performance.

SALZBURG CASTLE TO BE STUDENT CENTER. The castle of Leopoldskron, which for the past two years has housed the "Salzburg Seminar of American Studies" - a summer school for European students organized and sponsored by the Harvard University Student Council - is now to become a permanent international rest center for winter students as well. During the course of the winter, some 400 students from Austria, England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain will be guests of the Harvard Student Council and the World Student Organization. They will attend courses in history, music, economics and other subjects, to be given by prominent American and European lecturers. On the material side, the students will receive a daily food ration of 4000 calories.

Leopoldskron was built by the Archbishops of Salzburg in the 18th Century and is one of Austria's most beautiful baroque castles. Between the two world wars it was the summer residence of Max Reinhardt.

INTERNATIONAL BYZANTINIST CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN VIENNA. The Austrian Byzantine Society is making preparations for the 8th International Byzantinist Congress to be held in Vienna in 1950 under the motto: "Byzantium and the West". Present plans call for an exhibition of Byzantine manuscripts, the publication of a yearbook with the same title and visits by congress members to the Tyrol to view works of art which have been influenced by Byzantine culture.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS SENT TO DR. LISE MEITNER. On the occasion of her 70th birthday, Dr. Lise Meitner, the noted Austrian atomic scientist now working at the University of Stockholm, received congratulatory messages from Minister of Education Hurdes, the Rector of the University of Vienna, Dr. Denk, the President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Ficker, and the Austrian Minister to the United States, Dr. Kleinwaechter.

BACH'S "ST. MATTHEW PASSION" SUBJECT OF NEW FILM. Bach's sublime

oratorio "The Passion according to St. Matthew" is the basis of a film now being made in Vienna by the newly-created ERNA film production company under the musical direction of Herbert Karajan. The sound track of the picture will consist entirely of Bach's music and Vienna's best musical talent, both orchestral and vocal, is participating in this film which will be the first cinematographic presentation of an oratorio. Ernst Marischka is the producer. The scenes of the film will show famous paintings and sculptures by Duerer, Rembrandt, Tizian, Raffael, Breughel, Pacher and others. Simultaneous versions in English, Italian, French and Spanish are planned and different sound tracks will be made in the various countries with local leading vocalists and national orchestras all of which Herbert Karajan will conduct. The visual scenes will be shot in the museums of these countries which have agreed to contribute their most valued paintings for the purpose.

AUTHOR OF "HOLY NIGHT, SILENT NIGHT" TO BE HONORED IN FILM. Josef Mohr, the modest village priest of Oberndorf near Salzburg who more than a century ago wrote the text of the most beautiful and most beloved of Christmas songs, "Holy Night, Silent Night", will be honored on the 100th anniversary of his death, this December, by a motion picture to be produced soon in Austria.

KAUFMANN EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK. A particularly representative exhibition of paintings by the Viennese artist Isidor Kaufmann was recently opened by the Jewish Museum in New York. Overcoming unusual difficulties to make the display possible, Dr. Stephen S. Kayser, the museum's Curator, in cooperation with the artist's son, Mr. Edward Kaufmann, a New York attorney, succeeded in assembling approximately half of Isidor Kaufmann's total work. The artist's son has received an invitation to hold the same exhibition in Cleveland.

"HARVEY" IN VIENNA. Oscar Karlweis, the well-known stage and screen actor, has left New York early in December for an extended European tour. Karlweis will play the first foreign-language version of "Harvey" in German on the stage of his native Vienna, and later in several theaters in Switzerland.

AUSTRIAN CHRISTMAS FUND BROADCAST. The Vienna Boys Choir, oldest and most famous boys' choir in the world, now on its first visit to the United States in ten years, will broadcast over the NBC network on December 18th from 5 to 5:30 p.m. (New York time) in behalf of the Austrian Christmas Fund. The Fund, established by the American forces in Austria two years ago, this year asks contributions toward CARE packages for 240,000 Austrian children. General Geoffrey Keyes, American Commander in Austria, in appealing for contributions, said that "CARE packages are needed all over Europe, but nowhere is that need greater than here in Austria."

Contributions to the fund should be addressed: Austrian Christmas Fund, CARE, Washington, D.C.

US AGREES TO RESUMPTION OF AUSTRIAN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

On December 7th, the Department of State has replied in the following terms to the note submitted the day before by the Austrian Minister in Washington, Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, concerning the early resumption of negotiations for the conclusion of an Austrian State Treaty:

"The Government of the United States welcomes the initiative which the Austrian Federal Government has shown in this matter and hopes that a suitable basis may be found for the continuation of negotiations and the early conclusion of the Treaty. On its part it is fully prepared to participate in renewed discussions for this purpose. The United States Deputy on the Council of Foreign Ministers, as Chairman of the next Meeting, will address the appropriate communication to the Secretary General as soon as the replies from the other Governments represented on the Council have been received. It will be deeply appreciated if the Austrian Federal Government will inform the United States Government of the replies which are received to its request."

The text of the Austrian note is published on page 1 of this issue of "AUSTRIAN INFORMATION".

AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL
509 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.